

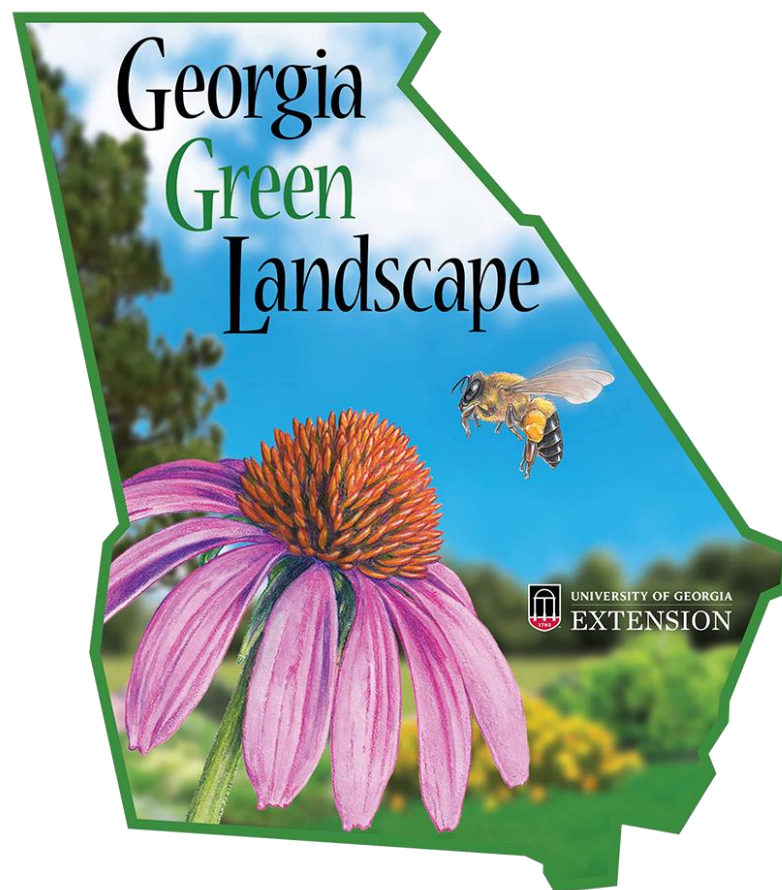
# Georgia Green Landscape Stewards Program

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Northeast District  
Area Water Agent



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# Program Overview

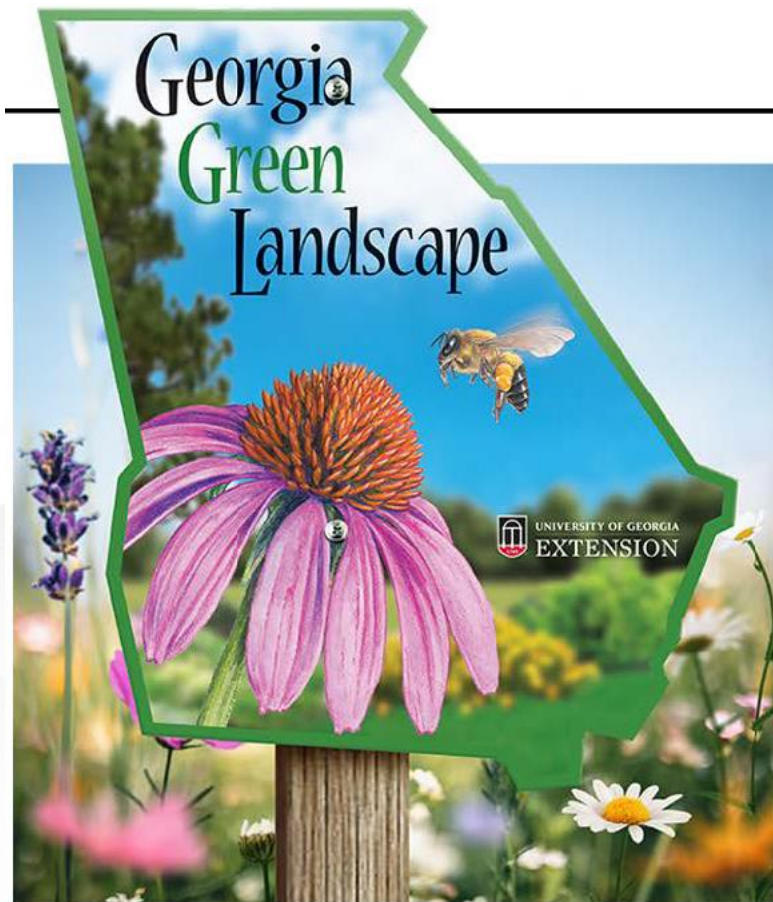


The Georgia Green Landscape Stewards program provides educational resources that teach Georgians about:

- Protecting natural resources
- Increasing plant and animal biodiversity
- Conserving soil and water
- Providing wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Improving public and environmental health



- This program encourages Georgians to adopt more environmentally friendly practices and consider how their land use activities can complement the natural world.
- After learning about sustainable land management practices, participants can measure their own activities with the program metric scorecard and earn 'Georgia Green Landscape' certification status for their landscape.



With certification participants receive:

- The satisfaction of contributing to natural resource protection
- A Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certificate
- Option to purchase an attractive yard sign to designate their property as a sustainably managed Georgia landscape

# Program Goals



- Inspire and educate citizens of Georgia about more sustainable landscaping practices
- Increase habitat for wildlife and pollinators through connectivity of natural areas and corridors

- Decrease stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution
- Increase soil health, water quality and biodiversity in Georgia





- Protect and conserve natural resources
- Save citizens time, money and labor through working with – not against – nature

# Program Structure



- Website platform  
<https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/>
- PDFs and video presentations on the 10 educational components
- UGA Extension Agents have access to powerpoint presentations for county delivery

# Educational Components



- Composting
- Mulching
- Pollinator Habitat
- Welcoming Wildlife
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Stormwater
- Invasive Species
- Native Plants
- Biodiversity

# Georgia Green Landscape Stewards

[Home](#)[How to Get Certified](#)[Contact the Program](#)[Additional Resources for Participants](#)[UGA Agent Resources](#)

The **Georgia Green Landscape Stewards Program**, created by University of Georgia Extension, is a certification program for businesses and residences in Georgia. Our goal is to provide fact-based information to clientele and help them implement sustainable green practices in their landscape. Georgia landowners have a large impact on natural resources, such as water, wildlife, and native plants. With sustainable land management practices, we can help protect these natural resources for generations to come.

[Learn How to Get Your Georgia Green Landscape Certified](#)

The Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certification program provides educational resources that teach Georgians about protecting natural resources, increasing plant and animal biodiversity, conserving soil and water, providing wildlife and pollinator habitat, and improving public and environmental health. After learning about sustainable land management practices, participants can measure their own activities with the program metric scorecard and earn certification status for their landscape.

Along with the satisfaction of contributing to natural resource protection, Georgia Green Landscape certification includes an option for participants to purchase an attractive yard sign to designate their property as a sustainably managed Georgia landscape. This program encourages Georgians to adopt more environmentally friendly practices and consider how their land use activities can complement the natural world.

Georgia Green Landscape educational components include:



Learn about the Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certification program in this short video!



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# Georgia Green Landscape Education Components

Review the education components linked below to see if your landscape meets some of the scorecard metrics. You can choose to implement any additional components and practices from the program to increase your sustainability factor!

- [Composting at Home](#)
- [Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape](#)
- [Mulching in the Landscape](#)
- [Encouraging Biodiversity at Home](#)
- [Protecting Water Quality](#)
- [Stormwater Management](#)
- [Water Conservation](#)
- [Welcoming Wildlife](#)
- [Welcoming Pollinators to Your Landscape](#)
- [Native Plants \(Statewide\) and Low Maintenance Landscapes](#)
- [Native Plants \(Coastal\) and Low Maintenance Landscapes](#)

## Composting at Home



## Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape



[Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape \(PDF\)](#) [Download](#)

- All videos also available through YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjkCDmTmH-wuKUvcFrK-e1w/featured>

YouTube

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**Trench Composting**

- Simple – bury food scraps.
- Dig a trench about 12-inches deep (30cm), throw in the items, chop and mix with soil, then cover with remaining soil. In a few months the rotted material will have been incorporated into the soil and you can plant above them.

18:41

Composting at Home

**Elephant Ear**

- Introduced to the US from Northern South America. Big leaves and ability to grow up to 9 feet tall can shade out many native plants.
- Spreads profusely in landscape – especially wet areas

50:03

Invasive Plants

**Plant Species Diversity**

40:29

Encouraging Biodiversity at

**Hay**

- NOT RECOMMENDED
- Often cheap or free
- Usually contains weed seeds
- Hay is often treated with herbicides that remain active and may kill or damage garden plants (this also poses a problem with manure as some herbicides can remain active even after a horse or cow digests the hay)

19:14

Mulching in the Landscape

# Program Metric

Sustainable Landscape Topic 8: Invasive Plants		
ACTION #	ACTION	ACTION ACHIEVED
53	Don't buy or share invasive plants. <b>Credit: 2 points</b>	
54	Physically remove invasive plants, roots, and debris, then burn or bag and dispose in the trash. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
55	Apply proper herbicide according to the label, such as glyphosate or triclopyr, to kill invasive plants. Use an aquatic formulation if you are near water. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
56	Remove established invasive trees by cutting and painting the trunk with herbicide. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
Topic 8 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		0

Sustainable Landscape Topic 9: Native Plants and Low Maintenance Landscapes		
ACTION #	ACTION	ACTION ACHIEVED
57	Plant native plants adapted to your climate and natural pests. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
58	Put the right plant in the right place! Consider sun, soil moisture, salt tolerance, spacing, and temperature. Plant in groups of three. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
59	Use natural mulch and ground cover. Leaves, pine straw, and woody debris. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	
60	Establish strong roots. Plant correctly, use native plants, and water deeply and infrequently. <b>Credit: 3 points</b>	
Topic 9 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		0

- Actions grouped by 10 educational components
- Simply check actions completed (including those pre-existing on site)
- Form auto-calculates points for each section and total points



Sustainable Landscape Topic 10: Encouraging Biodiversity		
ACTION #	ACTION	ACTION ACHIEVED
60	Incorporate diverse plant species in your landscape. Reduce monoculture coverage, such as expansive turf lawns, and remove invasive species. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
61	Provide and preserve habitat with food, water, and shelter for a variety of wildlife, including insects. <b>Credit: 3 points</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
62	Reduce or eliminate your contributions to pollution, including a pesticide free landscape. Prevent pollution and improper disposal of fertilizer, pesticides, cleaning chemicals, pet waste, and oil/fuel. Pick up trash and reduce consumption and reliance on one-time use products. <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
63	Keep 25% of your landscape naturally diverse and accept landscape "imperfections". This means less labor and gives you more time to relax and enjoy your other efforts! <b>Credit: 4 points</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topic 10 TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		0
GRAND TOTAL POINTS ACHIEVED:		0

- 63 possible actions
- Action values assigned by ease and/or cost, between 2 – 4 pts.
- 70 points required for certification
- Need  $\approx$  22 actions based on the average action score
- Challenging, yet attainable

Please email this completed form to University of Georgia Extension Georgia Green Landscape Stewards coordinator at [georgiagreen@uga.edu](mailto:georgiagreen@uga.edu). You can also mail the form to: Georgia Green Landscape Stewards, Program Coordinator, UGA Extension Camden County, P.O. Box 309, Woodbine, GA 31569. The information that you provide below will be used to contact you regarding your certification. Thank you for taking the time to get certified and for all you do to protect Georgia's natural resources!

Name:

Mail Address:

Phone:  Email:

What county is this landscape in? :

Please indicate if you would prefer your certificate as a paper copy mailed by checking this box:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Or an electronic copy emailed by checking this box :	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you would like to order the Georgia Green Landscape Steward yard sign please check here, and enclose \$15.00 payable to the Camden County Cooperative Extension. Mail payment to: Georgia Green Landscape Stewards, Program Coordinator, UGA Extension - Camden County, P.O. Box 309, Woodbine, GA 31569	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you are willing to have your name and town (NOT address) listed in a news article or press release, recognizing you and your certified yard with others across the county or state, please initial here:	<input type="checkbox"/>



The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. Cooperative Extension, the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability.

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.



- Once completed, submit to

[georgiagreen@uga.edu](mailto:georgiagreen@uga.edu)

- Or mail to  
Georgia Green  
Landscape Stewards  
Program Coordinator  
UGA Extension-  
Camden County  
PO Box 309 Woodbine,  
GA 31569

# Certificates



- Free to those scoring 70 points or higher on the metric
- Participants receiving certification can have their certificate emailed or printed and mailed at no cost

# Landscape Signs



- Upon certification, signs may be purchased for \$15 by check or money order
- Weather resistant, colorful, aluminum composite with pre-drilled holes for mounting
- Georgia Green Landscape Stewards branding graphic with native coneflower and bumblebee
- Includes mounting instructions

# Response to Date

*"It was a very informative lecture by Jessica Warren extension agent, on supporting the GA ecosystem and the necessity of planting and maintaining native corridors for pollinators which are not just butterflies. Great presentation!!!! Simply put, informative and inspirational."*

*"This was a great all-around series. I learned so much about the full picture of native gardening - from the best plants to how to compost, conserve, water, etc, etc. Totally enjoyed it and would highly recommend. Many thanks to Jessica and Martin."*

*"The stick pile my boyfriend keeps in the yard and I have wanted to clean up is probably why we have so much biodiversity already. I just took down our hummingbird feeder and we are getting a frog pad for the pool. Also, going to pick up the dog's business more often."*

- Since the program launched in March of 2021, 93 landscapes in 32 different counties have been certified
- In addition to residential landscape certifications, there have been several church and public demonstration garden certifications
- There have been more than 2152 views of program educational components through the program's YouTube channel, and more than 2981 unique views of the program website
- Educational components were offered as a live webinar series following the program launch
  - Evaluations from the webinar series stated that 100% of respondents had an increase in knowledge regarding sustainable landscape management due to the series

# Questions?

[georgiagreen@uga.edu](mailto:georgiagreen@uga.edu)

<https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/>

The Georgia Green Landscape Stewards program start-up was funded by a grant from the UGA Center for Urban Agriculture.